

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

April 3, 2012
5:15 P.M.

Members Present: Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Cristy Greaves, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Kathleen Thomas, and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

Members Absent: Michael Casson, Karen Gordon, and Chris Kenton.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Dan Cruce; DDOE Deputy Secretary of Education, Christopher Ruszkowski; RTTT Chief Officer TLEU, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board of Education Executive Director, Deb Stevens; DSEA, Frank Livoy; University of Delaware ARTC and Amber Augustus; Delaware 2012 Teacher of the Year.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Christian and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the April 3, 2012 Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2012: A motion was made by Dr. Rouser and seconded by Ms. Christian to approve the PSB Minutes of February 2, 2012. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2012: Ms. Lewandowski noted a correction. A motion was then made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to approve the PSB Minutes of March 1, 2012 as amended. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels participated as an event Judge on March 9th at the Skills USA; a Career and Technical student organization competitive series of events for current

technical schools. The well-run event was held at the Dover Modern Maturity Center.

- Mr. Michels had some conversations in mid-March with Christopher Ruszkowski about Administrative regulations which the PSB will be discussing at today's meeting.
- Mr. Michels represented the PSB on March 16th at the Delaware State Education Association's Celebration of Leadership Banquet at Dover Downs in Dover.
- Mr. Michels attended the Delaware Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (DACTE) event on March 20th at Wesley College. This was an annual symposium, and every Delaware Institution of Higher Education teacher preparation program had participants in attendance. A guest speaker from the National Association presented her thoughts on the status of programs nationwide and current federal legislative intent.
- Mr. Michels met with an administrator from the Campus Community Charter School on March 22st to talk about the Mentoring application process since Campus Community had some questions about applying for their own Mentoring program.
- Mr. Michels met with Dr. Hodges, Dr. Barton and two of Dr. Barton's staff on March 23rd to address a previous concern Dr. Hodges had regarding the recent changes to Regulation *1505 Standard Certificate* in which the Department was referenced. In the past approvals rested with districts and charter schools and now the Department has the final approval on courses and professional development. Mr. Michels had developed a document that was designed to initiate internal DOE conversation about Department protocols for approvals when presented. Mr. Michels acknowledged that this was indeed a Department decision, and that he had as promised, developed the suggested protocols in a document to start the thought process, as approvals were imminent.
- Mr. Michels said he will be attending Dr. Barton's Quarterly Meeting on April 4th. He is on the Agenda to speak about recent changes within the Emergency Certificate and reiterate changes the PSB made within the Continuing License regulation a couple of years ago. He will also update the attending group on other PSB work.
- Mr. Michels announced that for those PSB members who were not able to attend last month's PSB meeting, there are some folders available from Pearson. He said he plans to talk about Pearson's National Evaluation Series as time allows on a future PSB Agenda.

IV. **DOE Report**

Ms. Thomas introduced Mr. Dan Cruce: DDOE Deputy Secretary of Education. Mr. Cruce distributed handouts to the PSB and gave a brief overview regarding the Delaware STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Council. He said part of the Race To The Top (RTTT) application focused on work around STEM. The STEM Council is a coordinating body that can influence the Department and connected constituent groups and organizations to do more. Mr. Cruce explained that the STEM Council currently has 3 work topics: Pre K-12, Higher Education, and Business. He said it is important to expand Delaware business opportunities as well as bring new business

opportunities to the State. In this way Delaware can grow jobs in Delaware and have job opportunities for our young adults. Mr. Cruce said the STEM Council is divided into several Committees (Business, Communication and Collaboration, Women and Minorities, Public Education, Advisory, Program Evaluation and Monitoring, and Higher Education) who will try and determine the areas Delaware is doing well and the places that Delaware needs more focused work. The Delaware STEM Council website is: <http://stem.delaware.gov/>. Mr. Cruce encouraged the PSB to review the materials and to contact him with feedback and/or questions.

V. Presentation

A. 2012 Delaware Teacher of the Year

Ms. Thomas introduced Ms. Amber Augustus, the 2012 Delaware Teacher of the Year. Ms. Augustus, a teacher from Smyrna School District's John Bassett Moore Intermediate School, shared some personal stories and words of wisdom for the PSB. She thanked the PSB for being advocates for the students in Delaware. She asked the PSB to continue to campaign for professional growth and demonstrated excellence so that all students can be guaranteed that they have a school experience that involves a caring, dedicated, professional who is well versed in how to make their education meaningful.

B. Delaware Leadership Project (DLP) Quarterly Report

Mr. Michels introduced Mr. Christopher Ruszkowski who presented the March 1, 2012 Delaware Leadership Project (DLP) Quarterly Report. He distributed the Report to the PSB members and summarized the Report. Mr. Ruszkowski discussed the progress of Cohort 1's Residency Year, Recruitment and Selection for Cohort 2, District and Charter School Participation in the DLP, and upcoming work and events. Mr. Ruszkowski then answered questions and concerns posed by the PSB.

VI. Action Items

A. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards

Mr. Michels said that the PSB has been reviewing this regulation for several months. He said the regulation is based on the work of the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC). Mr. Michels said he has shared a variety of iterations with the PSB over the past months, varying from significant in length to more concise. In the iteration before the Board, Mr. Michels minimized the overall content length and directly referenced and incorporated by reference the InTASC document. There was some concern from Higher Education representatives about the timely implementation of these regulations into their programs, and about whether or not the Professional Standard Board (PSB) and the State Board of Education (SBE) will be mandating these as part of their program. Mr. Michels made it clear to the Institutions of Higher Education that the PSB is not responsible for Teacher Preparation Program Approval; that decision rests with the Delaware Department of Education. He referred the Board to the Non-Regulatory Note placed at the top of Regulation 1597. Ms. Fontello explained the meaning of the Non-Regulatory Note. The Note is there for clarification and to direct others to the appropriate regulations. It was also clarified that a copy of the full InTASC Standards would be on file with the Registrar of Regulations. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms.

Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Murray to publish *1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards*. The motion carried.

B. 1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities

Mr. Michels has had numerous conversations with a variety of Autism and Severe Disability advocates, including a visit to Caesar Rodney School District's Charlton School. Mr. Michels said he is now not comfortable with the proposed language in Section 1 of this regulation as to whom this regulation applies to. Mr. Michels understands that there are 'Approved Programs' in the State, but with recent transitions in the Department and with the Delaware Autism Program, the approval process is a bit opaque. Ms. Christian made a motion to table the vote to publish pending further research and discussion, and to have this regulation on the agenda as a Discussion Item at the May PSB meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. DeWitt. This regulation was then open to the Board for discussion following the motion. Ms. Fontello noted that the term Severe Disabilities is undefined in both Federal and State Regulations. After additional discussion the Board voted to table the discussion until the next PSB meeting, based on the motion. The motion carried.

C. 1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards

Mr. Michels said this regulation was previously approved by PSB and SBE to be published in the Delaware Register of Regulations. The standards are expressly based on Learning Forward's Professional Learning Standards. Mr. Michels had received comments from the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) and the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC). Both sets of comments expressed the same small concerns and both overall endorsed the regulation. There were a few small suggested edits in Section 1. Mr. Michels informed the PSB they could see the edits on the copy previously sent. The Section 1 edits were made, but it was not appropriate to make any further changes in the regulation's language as the wording was taken verbatim from the Professional Learning Standards. Mr. Michels said this is before the PSB for Final Approval. It was clarified that the complete Learning Forward standards would be on file with the Registrar of Regulations. A motion was made by Dr. Rouser and seconded by Mr. Kohan to approve *1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards*. The motion carried.

D. HB 107: *proposed amendments*

Mr. Michels discussed the process and the timeline of the history regarding HB 107. Ms. Thomas, Ms. Fontello, Mr. Michels, representation from DSEA and the Delaware Nurses Association, and Rep. Schooley (who had sponsored the Bill) had met several months ago to discuss the Bill. At the end of the conversation a proposed compromise was discussed regarding the component of the Bill requiring passage of Praxis I prior to licensure. The suggestion was to include an exception to allow specialists 60 days after hire to pass the 3 Praxis I tests. Mr. Michels subsequently asked the Delaware Department of Education Leadership Team to respond to consideration of possible amendments to HB 107 as it stood. The Department was not in favor of the proposed 60 day window after hire to pass Praxis I, but suggested a delayed effective date. After some conversation debating the merits and concerns with the two proposed amendments,

a motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Dollard to maintain the PSB's original legislative agenda to require passage of Praxis I by all educators prior to licensure as reflected in HB 107 language as released from the House Education Committee last spring. The motion carried.

VII. Discussion

A. 1570 Early Childhood Special Education

Mr. Michels noted that the title of this Regulation should be amended so it matches the other Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher Standard Certificate. He said this regulation has been reformatted by referencing *1505 Standard Certificate* which allows for the elimination of unnecessary language. Mr. Michels indicated that several Delaware educators participated in the ETS Praxis II Multistate Standard Setting Study for this subject area in Princeton, New Jersey last fall. The Study participants felt to a one that the current course count within the regulation should be maintained, as was also vocalized by several Board members. Ms. Fontello noted that this regulation is an overlapping certification with regulation *1571 Exceptional Children Special education Teacher* relative to grade levels and it should be noted within 1570. Regulation 1571 requires a Praxis II test, whereas regulation 1570 does not have this requirement as of yet. Approving the specific Praxis II test for this area would be a separate Action item and need not be indicated in this regulation's language. After minimal discussion, Mr. Michels asked the Board to carefully review the proposed language and that this regulation may come back to the Board for consideration of Publication in May.

B. Administrative regulations

Mr. Michels discussed drafts that compared current/standing language versus proposed language for the following Delaware Administrative Standard Certificates: 1591, 1592, 1593, and 1594. He spoke briefly about the connections from the 4 administrative regulations to the new regulation *1595 Certification Programs for Leaders in Education*. It was noted that with the connections between the Administrative regulations and the proposed 1595, it would be advantageous to move the five regulations forward as a package. Mr. Michels asked the Board to give these a critical review between this meeting and one in the future when it will be placed on the Agenda as a Discussion item.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met, but had been contacted for feedback to amended regulation 1570.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

IX. Other

None.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Devard and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.